

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

March 12, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

**RE: Ex Parte Notice. MB Docket No. 02-277, MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244.
In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast
Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996; Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers;
Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of Radio Broadcast Stations in Local
Markets; Definition of Radio Markets.**

On March 11, 2003, Linda Foley, Vice President, The Newspaper Guild/CWA, Wayne Cahill and Rob Perez of the Honolulu Newspaper Guild/CWA, and Debbie Goldman of the Communications Workers of America had two meetings with FCC staff. In the first meeting, they met with Alexis Johns and Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisors to Commissioner Michael Copps. In the second meeting, they met with Sarah Whitesell, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein. Jeff Leib of the Denver Newspaper Guild/CWA also participated in the first meeting (via telephone).

The discussion focused on CWA’s proposal that any modification of current broadcast media ownership limits that would permit common ownership of a newspaper and a TV station or common ownership of TV stations (duopolies) in unconcentrated markets should include the requirement that the commonly-owned outlets maintain separate news and editorial staff to protect viewpoint diversity. We discussed the Newspaper Preservation Act of 1970 statutory mandate requiring newspapers operating under a joint operating agreement (JOA) under terms of the Newspaper Preservation Act maintain separate editorial and news staff. We described how this requirement has preserved viewpoint diversity and journalistic competition in two JOA locations: Denver and, until the recent termination of the JOA, Honolulu.

A list of 12 existing newspaper Joint Operating Agreements, an overview of Joint Operating Agreements, and a copy of the 1970 Newspaper Preservation Act were distributed and are attached to this notice.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABLE
IN THE LEAP
DOCKET/RULEMAKING**

02-277

SEE DOCKET NO. FOR THE DOCUMENT.